

Letter and enclosure from George Kennan to Arthur W. McCurdy, October 10, 1896, with transcript

(Copy) Baddeck C.B. Nova Scotia. October 10 1896. Dear Mr Mc Curdy

Yours of the 9th received. Yes, I had thought of having an analysis made of the water from the salt spring at the head of the Bay. My idea was to get some water from there, and also from the Salt Mountain spring near Whycocomagh and from one of the abandoned petroleum wells on the western shore of Lake Ainslie and have analyses made of them all. If the character of all should be identical, and if the brine should resemble in mineral contents that found in American oil fields, the fact would be a very significant and important one. If we should go over to Lake Ainslie, I have no doubt that we could get samples of water from one or more of those old drillings — some of them may be flowing brine still — and the chemical constitution of that water would be a very important thing to know. In the literature of the subject that I expect to get soon from Mr Woods, I hope to find more and fuller information with regard to the brines of American petroleum fields. If they are invariably, or even generally, characterized by the presence in unusual quantities of the chlorides of calcium and magnesium, and if we should find those minerals in excess in the subterranean salt waters of Cape Breton, it would establish, I think, a strong probability that such brine is associated with reservoirs of petroleum here as it is in the States.

Sincerely yours (Signed) George Kennan.

(Copy) Baddeck C.B. Nova Scotia. October 7 1896. Dear Mr Mc Curdy

I enclose herewith for the information of yourself and Mr Bell copies of two letters to Mr Hubbard dated Oct. 4 and Oct. 6; a copy of a proposed agreement with Mr Harrington and a letter of instructions to the latter both dated Oct. 6; and a collection of extracts relating

Library of Congress

to the association of salt water with petroleum. I think these are all the papers connected with the oil business that you have not already seen. Copies of all have been sent, of course, to Mr Hubbard. Please return them when Mr Bell has seen them, with any ideas or suggestions that may occur to him or you.

Sincerely yours (Signed) George Kennan.